

DIARY

OF A

JOURNEY THROUGH ARIZONA.

From the Railroad Record.

We publish below a very interesting diary of a journey through the country recently erected into the Territory of Arizona, made by F. X. Aubry, in 1853. We believe it has never before been printed in the Atlantic States. Mr. Aubry is a traveler of some note, and was well known as a reliable explorer. The country he passed through is one of great interest in itself. It was the first resting place of Aztec civilization in its journey from Behring's Straits to Central America. Here are ruins that were ancient at the time the early Jesuit Fathers penetrated the Indian country in 1540, eighty years before the landing of the Pilgrims on Plymouth Rock. Many of these ruins are still in existence, and have been described by explorers. They attest the fact that the country can support a population. Mr. Aubry's account also shows the existence of fertile valleys and wooded mountains.

The report is of interest, also, as showing the entire feasibility of the Railroad route of the 35th parallel. It also demonstrates that a route extending from Port Libertad, on the Gulf of California, through Tabac and Tucson in a northeasterly direction toward Albuquerque and Santa Fe, would meet with no obstacles north of the Gila river. In our opinion, this road will soon be demanded by the development of the country.

But the report is of most interest as showing the vast mineral resources of the country through which the party passed. Gold in placers of extraordinary richness, and silver and copper in regular veins, were observed by this party in their hasty journey—driven by Indians and pushed for want of provisions,—and thus unable to make any but the most cursory examinations for the precious metals. This report is amply confirmed by the recent developments in the neighborhood of La Paz, which have set California, even, in the shade. It is a somewhat remarkable fact that the report of Mr. Aubry and other modern travelers, and the recent actual productions of this region, only confirm the early reports of the Spaniards. In 1539, Capt. Francis Vasques de

Diary of a Journey Through Arizona.

Coronado,—in a letter to the Secretary of Don Antonio de Mendoza, Viceroy of New Spain,—mentions that the Indians in this region “had great store of gold,” which he says “is as it were all lost, because they know not what use to put it to.” Friar Marco de Niça, of the order of St. Francis, who penetrated into this region in 1540, testifies that in the town of Cevola there was greater use and more abundance of gold and silver than in Pern. The Friar being on a secular as well as religious errand, after having baptized a few of the Indian women, erected a cross and took possession of the country in the name of the Viceroy of Mendoza; and finding it not safe to remain, he “returned with more fear than victuals.” In 1583, Antonio de Espejo, who penetrated to the Zuñi, states that he found in his journey “rich mines of silver, which, according to the judgment of skillful men, were very plentiful and in rich metal.”

These reports were followed by actual discoveries and mining settlements, foremost among which were the mining missions of the Jesuits. And most important among those in Arizona, were Tomacacori and San Xavier. They were established for the reduction of the ores of the mines in their immediate neighborhood, and were well appointed reduction Haciendas, with a mission church for the benefit of the laborers. The famous Planchas de La Plata were discovered near the Arazuma (or, as they were afterward called, the Arizona) mountains, about twenty miles from Tomacacori. It was here that large masses of native silver were found. This excited the cupidity of the king's officers; and finally the king declared Arazuma a creation of silver, and appropriated it to his own use. This put a stop to private enterprise; and a few years after, the great Apache war broke out, and has raged with relentless fury for nearly two hundred years.

Americans are now undertaking to complete the developments begun by Spain. The success of our people in California is an earnest that we shall also succeed in Arizona, Nevada and Colorado. The great interior mineral region of our continent will soon yield its precious treasure to the world. And this great interior, so long known as the “American Desert,” will not only be filled with enterprising people, but will be crossed with railroads and become the highway for the commerce of the world.

Tejon Pass. July 10, 1853. As the country between this point and San Francisco is well known, I have kept no minutes of my journey thus far. We crossed the Sierra Nevada at the Tejon Pass, which is in about the 35th parallel of latitude, and about 50 miles south of Walker's Pass. From this point we will travel east until we reach the Rio Grande at Albuquerque, New Mexico. It is well to remark, that unfortunately there is no one with us who knows anything of the country through which we must pass, and we could not obtain any information in regard



to it. My party consists of eighteen men—twelve Americans and six Mexicans. Messrs. Tully of Santa Fe, and Adair of Independence, have joined us for a pleasure trip. We use pack animals entirely, having neither wagon nor carriage.

July 11th. Left the Pass, and made twelve miles east, over a level, gravelly, and sandy soil, and found a spring of good water.

July 12th. Traveled twenty miles eastward, the country similar to that of yesterday. We met with no timber, but found several springs of fresh water. There is timber in the mountains about the Tejon Pass, but none on the eastern side of them.

July 13th. Traveled to-day thirty-five miles east, and struck the Mohave river, where we found plenty of good water. This river sometimes disappears in its course, while at others it contains as much as two feet of water. There is a little cottonwood timber upon its banks, and canebrakes in great abundance. The cane is not of the large species.

The Mohave takes its rise in the San Bernadino mountains, which lie to the south of us; and after pursuing a northern course to a point a little north of our present camp, turns suddenly east, and soon south of east to empty into the Great Colorado. Found good grass for our animals.

July 14th. Made twenty miles east along the Mohave, and found water, timber and grass abundant.

July 15th. Continued along the river about eighteen miles further, in a direction nearly east; then leaving the Mohave to our right, we traveled fifteen miles northeast.

Met with abundance of grass, a little timber, and a few miles of fertile land along the river. There is no water in the bed of the stream; but it may be had by digging a few feet. Found wild cane from time to time. Encamped without water, grass or wood.

July 16th. Still pursuing a northeastern course—we traveled to-day thirty-five miles over a level, gravelly soil. We have deviated from our due east course in order to avoid a region of sand hills that lie to our right, and directly between us and the Great Colorado. The weather is very hot, and no rain has fallen since we left the Pass. So far we have met with neither Indians nor game of any kind. We obtained a little water about half-way in our day's journey; but saw no timber or grass.

July 17th. Made thirty-three miles northeast, over a level, gravelly country; about half-way obtained a little very hard water. No grass or timber in sight during the day; but at night we obtained good water, grass and wild cane. Prairie mountains lie on both sides of the trail.

July 18th. Traveled twenty miles, still northeast, over a level country. Saw but little good land, and no timber. After traveling about five miles, we found good spring water, but encamped without any.

July 19th. Course still northeast, distance thirty-two miles; country level, soil inferior, grass and water, but no timber.

July 20th. Made twenty miles northeast over a level, gravelly country, and obtained good spring water and grass. Saw no timber.

July 21st. Were detained in camp all day by the sickness of one of the men.

July 22d. Traveled twenty miles east-southeast, most of the distance through a little cañon, where we found grass, water and cane in abundance, and struck the Great Colorado of the west. The river at this place is 300 yards in width, and has from 10 to 15 feet of water in the channel. Its banks are entirely destitute of timber and grass; in fact,

no vegetable is met with except a small shrub, called *chamezo* by the Mexicans, and I believe *artemesia* by botanists. We were very fortunate in striking the river at a point where there are neither cañons nor mountains; although the country appears very rough and mountainous both to the north and south of us. To the north the rocks are black and irregular, and seem to be volcanic; while the cliffs to the south are of red sandstone. The banks at the crossing are low, rocky and unchanging, and the current exceedingly rapid.

We followed the river up for five miles, and selected a crossing where it is some 200 yards wide and 20 or 25 feet deep. We succeeded in finding a little drift-wood, of which we made a raft. Four men took charge of it, and it was carried some three miles with the current before it could be landed. The heights were covered with Indians, in readiness to shoot us down. I started down with four men to follow the raft and protect the men who were upon it, having ordered the camp to move down in haste. Having unloaded the raft upon the eastern bank, the men recrossed the river, and we selected a camp opposite the place where the baggage was deposited, and during the night kept up a constant fire with our rifles across the river, and in this manner protected it from the Indians.

The animals were taken to the crossing I had first selected, to swim the river. I took them up with three men on the west bank, and four men received them on the opposite side. This detained us half a day, and altogether we were detained five days in crossing the river.

The drift-wood of which we constructed our little raft appeared to have been cut by beavers. These animals must be exceedingly abundant, as they destroyed during the first night the ropes with which our raft was bound together, and carried off the timber. The loss of the ropes was a great inconvenience to us. We set a guard afterward at night over our second raft, to protect it from a similar fate.

The river showed signs of having been some 15 feet higher than when we crossed it. It is here a grand and magnificent stream, swift like the Mississippi and apparently as well adapted to navigation.

The place of our crossing is well suited to bridging, or ferriage by steam or otherwise.

We saw no water-fowl about the river, and only a few antelope and black-tail deer. East of the river we encountered a great many rattlesnakes of an uncommonly large size. They seem to be a new species, as their tails are covered, for some six inches from the point, with alternate white and black rings of hair or bristles, about a quarter of an inch long.

According to my observations the Colorado of the west is set down upon the maps greatly too far to the east, perhaps as much as 150 miles.

The Indians were constantly in sight and watching our movements. They could not be induced to approach us; but assured us, across the river, that they were Mohaves.

On one occasion while at rest for a few minutes in a deep gulley, about a mile from the crossing on the west side of the river, a Mexican man-boy discovered something glistening upon the ground, which on examination proved to be gold. We at once commenced washing sand in our tin-cups, and in every one discovered particles of gold. This gold was discovered in a dark coarse sand, and a black heavy sand was found in the cup after washing away the gravel. The sandy soil was so com-

fact that we could not dig it up with our fingers. The Indians being still on the heights near us, and our party being separated by the river, the danger was so great that we could not remain longer at this spot. I intended to return again, but the Indians became so numerous that it was impossible to do so. This gulley is on the right bank of the river, and the head of it is in a very rough and rugged mountain.

July 27th. We washed sand on the east side of the river, and found gold in greater abundance than on any previous occasion. I myself washed a tin-cupful of yellow clay, and found about 25 cents' worth of the pure metal. A Mexican boy, on washing a frying-panful of coarse sand, found from forty to fifty particles of pure gold, some of which were as large as the head of a pin. We took the clay and sand from the top of the ground without digging. The appearance of the country also indicates gold. I made no further examination, as our animals had subsisted for five days upon the *chamezo*, without a blade of grass, and our provisions had been damaged in the Colorado, which must cause us to travel several days without anything to eat.

To-day we made ten miles east. The country is without wood, water or grass.

July 28th. Two of our men being sick, we were compelled to return to the river on their account. Struck it some fifteen miles below the crossing, and found that from near that point it makes a considerable bend toward the east. The country does not indicate gold, nor could we find any by washing the sands.

July 29th. The condition of our sick men obliged us to remain in camp all day. Our animals were in a starving condition, as there was not a particle of grass on or near the river.

July 30th. Left the river and traveled fifteen miles east and five miles northeast. A sick Mexican was so much exhausted that we were compelled to make for a mountain north of us which indicated water; but we found neither water, timber nor grass.

July 31st. Traveled eight miles northeast, and struck a large stream, but much smaller than the Colorado, coming from the east-southeast, and running west-northwest. This stream may be what the Mexicans designate as the *Rio Grande de los Apaches*, and what the Americans have recently called the *Little Red River*.

One of my Mexicans followed this stream a few miles, and says that it empties into the Colorado seven or eight miles below camp, and that there is below us a valley of good soil, and grass in abundance. Where we struck this stream there is neither timber nor grass.

In the evening we traveled five miles south, to avoid mountains, and as many east. The country was level, but without grass or timber.

The mountains, or perhaps more properly hills, that we have thus far met with, are nothing more than elevations of various forms and dimensions, dispersed in a detached and irregular manner over a vast and otherwise uninterrupted plateau. Hence I have constantly termed the country level, and very properly, as it may be traversed in all directions among the solitary and detached elevations or mountains, without the necessity of crossing them.

August 1st. Traveled twenty miles east, and found a spring of good water; the grass was abundant, and cedar trees were seen on the highlands. The country is level, and the soil inferior.

Aug. 2d. Made ten miles east, crossing a mountain or ridge where we found a fine pass, grass and timber (cedar and piñon) abundant.

Aug. 3d. Traveled twenty miles south of east over a country somewhat broken; timber and grass abundant. Indians were around us, in numbers all day, shooting arrows every moment. They wounded some of our mules, and my famous mare Dolly, who has so often rescued me from danger by her speed and capacity for endurance.

Aug. 4th. We moved ten miles south to avoid mountains, and struck a valley which we left a few days since, and which extends to the Colorado. The mountains which we left are covered with timber. Grass and water were found in plenty.

The Indians commenced firing on us at sunrise, and continued until we reached camp. Arrows passed through the clothes of several of the men, and three passed through my own clothes and I was slightly wounded by two others in different places. An arrow passed through the collar of Dick Williams. We killed several of the Indians and wounded more. Peter Prudom accidentally shot himself in the right knee.

Aug. 5th. Traveled ten miles southeast in a valley; no water; grass and timber in abundance on all the mountains.

Aug. 6th. Continued ten miles southeast in the same valley in which we traveled yesterday; found no water, but good grass, and plenty of timber on and below the mountains. As our sick men are unable to travel, we are suffering for water, having been nearly three days without any; and indications are not now favorable. Indians still around us.

Aug. 7th. Traveled ten miles southeast, half the distance in the same valley, and then went to a mountain and found good water, grass and timber. All the mountains in this country are covered with cedar, pine and piñon. The grass is good in all the prairies, but none of them have any water. The soil is sandy and full of particles of mica. Indians are numerous, and continue to fire upon us.

Aug. 8th. Made fifteen miles east-southeast, crossing a little chain of mountains, where we found a level pass, and timber, grass and water in abundance. Crossed a stream running from northeast to southwest, which I think goes to the Colorado. After crossing the mountains, we passed through a fine valley, with an abundance of good spring water, and timber near it. The Indians attacked the camp several times last night, but without success, and continued fighting us during the day, but with less boldness and resolution.

Aug. 9th. After proceeding eight miles east, we found ourselves surrounded by cañons, apparently from one to four thousand feet deep; at least we sometimes could not see the bottom. We were compelled to return to the same camp. The country is high and level, and well supplied with timber, grass and water.

Aug. 10. Moved ten miles southeast over a somewhat broken country. Crossed a stream of good water (with timber along its course), which is evidently a tributary of the Gila. The country indicates gold in abundance. We crossed a little chain of mountains where we found a great quantity of silver ore in flint rocks.

Aug. 11th. Traveled southeast over a country a little broken, but well supplied with water, grass and timber. Indications of gold still exist.

Aug. 12th. Made fifteen miles southeast, crossing the bed of a large stream now dry, with plenty of timber along it. Struck the valley which

we left some five or six days ago, having crossed a few days ago the head waters of a stream which passes through it. This valley will be of the utmost importance in the making of a wagon or rail road.

To-day, for the first time on this trip, we ate a dinner of mule meat. It was a new dish to most of our men, and made some of them sick. To me it was an old acquaintancc, and I feel well. It only served to remind me of hard times on other journeys. The quality of the meat depends on the appetite of the man. Several of us are now on foot.

Aug. 13th. Marched twenty miles east, leaving to our right the great valley so often mentioned, and which extends to the Colorado. Passed through a little valley between two mountains, where we found timber grass and water in abundance. The soil was excellent.

We here met Indians, who professed to be very friendly with papers, of recommendation from the commanding officer of Fort Yuma, on the Gila trail.

Aug. 14th. We left early, and after traveling five miles in an eastern direction, stopped to breakfast near an Indian camp of Garroters. They professed friendship, but having no faith in their professions, I selected a camp on the top of a small hill, which would give us an advantage in case of a fight. All went on well until our mules were saddled, and we were ready to start, when, at a given signal, some forty or fifty Indians, apparently unarmed, and accompanied by their squaws, children and babies (tied to boards) in their arms, very suddenly charged upon us and attempted to destroy the whole party with clubs and rocks. The signal of attack was the taking of my hand in farewell by a chief, which he held with all his strength. So soon as these first Indians commenced the fight, about two hundred more rushed from behind a hill and brush, and charged upon us with clubs, bows and arrows. I thought, for a few minutes, that our party must necessarily be destroyed; but some of us having disengaged ourselves, we shot them down so fast with our Colt's revolvers, that we soon produced confusion among them and put them to flight. We owe our lives to these fire-arms, the best that were ever invented, and now brought, by successive improvements, to a state of perfection.

Mr. Hendry, an American, and Francisco Guzman, a New Mexican, greatly distinguished themselves.

Twelve of us, just two-thirds of the party, were severely wounded. I among the rest was wounded in six places. Ahner Adair, I fear, is dangerously injured. It was a very great satisfaction to me to find that none of our men were killed, nor any of the animals lost. We bled very much from our numerous wounds; but the blood and bodies of the Indians covered the ground for many yards around us. We killed over twenty-five and wounded more. The bows and arrows that we captured and destroyed, would have more than filled a large wagon.

Before the attack commenced, the squaws kept the clubs, which were from 18 to 24 inches long, concealed in deer skins about their children. When put to flight they threw their babies down into a deep, brushy gulley near at hand, by which many of them must have been killed. This is the first time I ever met with a war party of Indians accompanied by their wives and children. The presence of the latter was evidently to remove from our minds all suspicion of foul play on their part. I was never before in so perilous a condition with a party in all my life. On this occasion, which will be the last, I imprudently gave

my right hand, in parting, to the Indian chief. The left must answer for leave-taking hereafter.

We have thus far had so much ill-luck to encounter, that our arrival at our destination must be much delayed. First our men fell sick, then our provisions were damaged in the Colorado; latterly a man shot himself through the knee; our mules' feet, for want of shoes, are worn out; and to crown all, to day, two-thirds of the party are badly wounded and all have barely escaped with their lives. We are now subsisting entirely on mule meat, and do not get as much of that as we want. We are without salt and pepper, and in their absence it requires a stout stomach to digest our fare. But nobody complains, and the possibility of not doing what we have set out to do, has never entered the minds of my party.

We traveled five miles this afternoon, with the Indians at our heels shooting arrows at us every moment.

Aug. 15th. Traveled ten miles east among mountains, where we found water, grass and timber in abundance. Indians around us all day shooting arrows. I omitted, in the proper place, to say that I brought away from the mountains we passed through on the 10th, a little black sand, less than a cupful, and found in it on washing, twelve or fifteen particles of pure gold.

Aug. 16th. Made ten miles east, and found no water; plenty of grass and timber seen on the mountains north of us. Indians still numerous and troublesome. To-day met with copper in very great quantities. A vein of the pure native metal, about an inch and a half in diameter, was seen sticking out from a rock, which must have worn away by time and left the copper exposed. I think there is gold in the ore, but am not certain.

Our condition at present is bad enough. I have eight wounds upon me, five of which cause me much suffering; and at the same time, my mule having given out, I have to walk the whole distance. Thirteen of us are now wounded, and one is sick, so that we have only four men in good health. We are unable to travel faster on account of Adair's condition.

Our canteens, etc., having been broken or destroyed in our fight with the Indians, we can not carry water enough for more than half a day. This loss caused us to suffer more than can be imagined. Our animals were broken down by this traveling which could not be avoided. We would come across an abundance of water every day if we could march some twenty-five or thirty miles, but our condition is such that it requires three days to make that small distance. In addition to all this, we are now on half rations of horse-meat; and I have the misfortune to know that it is the flesh of my inestimable mare *Dolly* who has so often, by her speed, saved me from death at the hands of the Indians. Being wounded some days ago by the Garroteros, she gave out, and we are now subsisting upon her flesh.

Aug. 17th. Moved to-day about ten miles east, over a country rather rough, suffering much for want of water. In crossing mountains we have to select the highest places instead of the regular passes, as when caught in cañons or gullies we are not strong enough to fight the Indians. To-day, from the top of a little mountain, I saw the great valley, so often mentioned, extending to the Colorado, not over twenty miles south of us; and it now seems to turn more to the east. I intend to

make for it. I entertain fears that Adair and Baskerville are in danger from their wounds; all the others are getting better.

Aug. 18th. Moved only five miles south of east. Found water, grass and some timber.

Aug. 19th. Went five miles to-day in the same direction as yesterday, and came to the great valley that extends to the Colorado. Encamped on a creek of good water and grass; Adair being sometimes unable to travel, we are waiting on him. Indians around us shooting arrows. We never return their fire without being certain of our shots.

Aug. 20th. Traveled twenty miles east over a level, gravelly country; crossed a creek; found grass; no timber in sight.

Aug. 21st. Moved ten miles east over a level, gravelly country, and struck a large stream, which is no doubt a branch of the Gila. The mountains to the north of us are very rough and without timber.

There is no grass on this stream, which is thirty yards wide with three feet of water in the channel. Its course is from north to south.

Aug. 22d. Made ten miles southeast to a mountain. Country level, and without grass or timber.

Aug. 23d. Moved about the same distance and in the same direction, over a low, gravelly country. Struck a stream of good water, but without grass or timber.

Aug. 24th. Went about eight miles northeast, and encamped in the mountains where we met with the Apaches Tontos. No timber seen to-day.

Aug. 25th. Crossed the mountains where the Apaches Tontos live; found water, timber and grass in abundance. Traveled fifteen miles northeast from the top of this mountain, from which we saw the Sierra Blanca Mountains, which are near the Puebla of Zuñi.

Saw a prairie extending from the east end of the Garrotero Mountain to the upper end of the Sierra Blanca. I saw this prairie when we were at the east end of the Garrotero Mountain, but we were not in a condition to examine it; fifty miles is nothing with good animals; but ours were broken down, and our wounded men were unable to travel over ten miles a day. But I saw the country sufficiently well to convince me that there will be no obstacle whatever to the making of a rail or wagon road. The mountains which we crossed to-day are impracticable for either. I should like to return to the east end of the Garrotero Mountain, and pursue the route I indicate; but it is utterly impossible to do so, as we are now living on berries and herbs. We would rejoice to have mule-meat, but we have so few animals, and so many wounded men, that it would be unsafe to kill any more. I have the good fortune of having true men with me, otherwise it would be uncertain that a party could get through; but I have confidence in my men, and I feel positively certain that we will make the trip.

It will take us some ten or twelve days to reach Zuñi, where we expect to procure provisions. I shall travel near the mountains, as heretofore, on account of the certainty and facility of getting water, but shall remain in sight of the prairie extending from the Garrotero to the Sierra Blanca Mountain.

Aug. 26th. Moved ten miles east-northeast, most of the way along a creek, where we found grass in plenty, and some timber. The Apaches Tontos are numerous and troublesome.

Aug. 27th. Made fifteen miles east, crossing two streams, which are

branches of the Gila. We met Indians to-day, who, I think, are not Apaches Tontos, as they do not speak any Spanish, and refuse to answer our questions. We obtained from them over fifteen hundred dollars' worth of gold for a few old articles of clothing. The Indians use gold bullets for their guns. They are of different sizes, and each Indian has a pouch of them. We saw an Indian load his gun with one large and three small gold bullets to shoot a rabbit. They proposed exchanging them for lead, but I preferred trading other articles. Whether the Indians made these balls themselves, or whether they were obtained by the murder of miners in California or Sonora, I am unable to say.

Aug. 28th. Traveled ten miles east over a good country; met with more Indians, and traded for some horse-meat, by giving articles of clothing in exchange. We traded also for a few hundred dollars' worth of gold. To-day a mule broke down, and an Indian gave me for it a lump of gold weighing a pound and a half less one ounce.

The Indians are so numerous they would destroy the party if we allowed them the least chance. But we are very vigilant, and select camps on elevated places, consequently we are unable to make any examinations for gold in the sands of the country. The Indians call themselves *Belenios*.

Aug. 29th. Traveled some twenty miles in an eastern direction; the country quite level, and the land good, with plenty of grass and water.

Aug. 30th. Traveled to-day about fifteen miles east, over a country a little broken. Water and grass abundant.

Aug. 31st. Moved about twelve miles north of east, over a country similar to that of yesterday. Found water, grass and pine timber.

September 1st. Traveled fifteen miles over a country a little broken, and well supplied with water, grass and timber. The soil was good.

Sept. 2d. Traveled the same distance northeast to the Sierra Blanca. Followed Indian trails all day, and found grass, water and pine timber in great abundance; and most of the soil is of a superior quality.

Sept. 3d. Pursuing the same course, we traveled some fifteen miles among the same mountains. To-day we passed through valleys of good soil, and we found the pine timber in greater abundance than yesterday. The trees are generally from two and a half to five feet in diameter, and over two hundred feet high. We have seen timber enough to-day to make a railroad from the eastern States to the Pacific. The passes through this mountain are level, and can be traveled by wagons without any difficulty whatever.

Sept. 4th. Made twenty-five miles northeast, crossing the Colorado Chiquito after traveling about two miles. The land is level and good, and water and wood are plenty.

Sept. 5th. Made twenty miles east-northeast, and got out of the mountains after traveling five miles; struck the prairie, where we found good soil, grass and water.

Sept. 6th. Continuing northeast over a good and level country for twenty-five miles, we reached the Indian town or pueblo of Zuñi, where we met with a hospitable and civilized population, from whom we obtained an abundance of good provisions, over which we greatly rejoiced.

We have subsisted for a month on mule and horse flesh, and for the most of that time on half or quarter rations. But as I have reached this place with all my men, I feel satisfied.

I shall take no notes of the country from this town to Albuquerque

on the Rio Grande, as a level and much traveled wagon-road exists between the two places, and is familiar to the people of New Mexico. It has been described by others, and is well known to present no difficulties to the construction of a railroad.

Sept. 10th. At Albuquerque, New Mexico. Before laying aside my pencil, for the use of which I have no fancy, I shall set down a few ideas that are now prominent in my recollection.

I set out, in the first place, upon this journey, simply to gratify my own curiosity, as to the practicability of one of the much-talked of routes for the contemplated Atlantic & Pacific Railroad. Having previously traveled the southern or Gila route, I felt anxious to compare it with the Albuquerque or middle route. Although I conceive the former to be every way practicable, I now give it as my opinion that the latter is equally so, while it has the additional advantage of being more central and serviceable to the Union. I believe the route I traveled is far enough south to be certainly free from the danger of obstruction by snows in the winter. The route, in all its length, may be said to pass over a high plateau, or generally level country, for the most part thickly studded with prairie mountains, or detached elevations, seldom so linked together as to deserve to be called a chain of mountains. Numerous mountains were at all times in sight; but being for the most part isolated peaks, a detour of a few miles would always supersede the necessity of crossing them. To the south of our route from the Great Colorado to Zuñi, the country was more level than on the north, and for the greater part of the distance a valley extends nearly due east and west to the Colorado. The existence of so many mountains along the way must be considered, in reference to a railroad, as a very fortunate circumstance instead of a disadvantage, as it is the mountains alone which furnish the timber and never-failing water. The plains are the only deserts and barren spots, if they are to be called so after the fashion of the day, which exist in all that vast region of country which lies between the Gila on the south and the British possessions on the north, and the Rio Grande on the east and the Sierra Nevada of California on the west. The plateau, or table lands, must of course furnish the track upon which the road is to be laid; but the mountains adjacent must furnish the timber to make it, and the water for the use of men and animals employed in its construction, and for the use of the depots afterward. It is well for the country over which I passed that these mountains exist; as without them it would be in reality one vast and repulsive desert. It would be a disadvantage for a railroad to have to cross them; as, although not difficult to cross, it would much increase the expense. But I saw nothing that rendered it at all probable that they would have to be crossed. On the contrary, I am satisfied that a railroad may be run almost mathematically direct from Zuñi to the Colorado, and from thence to the Tejon Pass in California. The section from the Pass to San Francisco should leave the Tulare Lake to the west, and should pass through the Coast Range of mountains, say in the neighborhood of San Juan, and thence to San Francisco, and by a branch to Stockton.

The west side of Tulare Lake is unfit for a road on account of its miry nature. The section of the route from Zuñi to Albuquerque is plain sailing. That from Albuquerque to Independence or St. Louis, or Memphis, is equally plain, by two or three well known passes through the Sandia mountains, which lie east of the Rio Grande.

Certain slight deviations from the track which I pursued would improve the route. For instance, it would be better to leave my trail to the north, at a point say 180 miles east of the Sierra Nevada, and intersect it again some 15 miles west of the Colorado. On the east side of the Colorado the road should pursue a directly eastern course for 75 miles, and thence take an east-southeast course for nearly 200 miles, at the foot and on the south side of the mountains inhabited by the Garrotero Indians. Thence northeast for 15 miles in a prairie between those mountains and a range of mountains which seem to extend to the Gila. From this point the road should run easterly to the Colorado Chiquito river, and thence northeast to Zuñi. The distance from the east end of the Garrotero mountain to Zuñi is 200 miles. This route, as I indicate it, will pass at all times in sight of my trail, and through as practicable a country as any railroad route of the same distance in the United States.

The proposed route by the Sangre de Cristo, north of Taos, I take, if practicable at all, to be very objectionable, on account of the vast elevations the road must ascend to, and the large quantities of snow which fall and remain there so long during the winter months. This route has also the additional disadvantage of crossing two rivers, the Grand and the Green, either of which would be as costly to bridge as the Colorado.

A route has been somewhat spoken of just north of the Gila, with the view of having a route wholly on American ground. That, I am satisfied, is altogether out of the question, on account of mountains alone, if no other objection existed. The Gila route proper, passing in part through Sonora, is objectionable on several accounts besides its situation. In the first place there is no timber upon the plains, nor upon the volcanic mountains that lie along the way. A considerable part of the route, too, lies over a country destitute of vegetation, which, when dry, is a white powder, resembling flour, in which the feet of men and animals sink several inches. This same clay, when wet, is the most treacherous of quagmires. Some parts of the road are also very sandy. Don Ambrosio Armijo, who took sheep to California last year, lost as many as eleven hundred, among the sand-hills west of the Colorado, by sinking in the sand, and being run over by those behind. Another serious objection to the Gila route is the great desert which lies west of the Colorado, and has an extent of 100 miles without wood or water.

I have no interest in recommending one of these routes more than another. I took sheep and wagons to California last year by the Gila route; and I am about to return that way to California again with sheep. Upon the route which I have just traveled I encountered many hardships and dangers, and met with serious pecuniary loss; yet I say it is the best for a railroad, and would be excellent for ordinary traveling but for the Indians. A large portion of the trail over which I passed—say some 250 miles west from the Rio Grande—is, for the most part, admirably adapted to farming and stock-raising.







